



DEALING WITH DISAGREEMENT

Surrender your right to be right.

No family—no matter how close, no matter how strong—lives without conflict. As individuals, we think differently from one another. We are not clones; we are not automatons. Our individuality reflects the creativity of God who designed every one of us with different fingerprints and DNA—and opinions.

So we do not always agree. The thermostat, the menu, the television remote, the point to refill the gas tank, the amount of the tip—all may remind us of this fact. How do we, then, obey God's instructions to be likeminded (Philippians 2:2)?

Paul gives some simple steps in the following verses.

- *Share love.*
- *Don't be selfish.*
- *Do be humble.*
- *Look out for the interests of others.*
- *Think like Jesus (verses 2-5).*

When (not if) conflict arises, we should address it as Jesus would—unselfishly wanting what is best for others in our family and circle of friends, humbly and sacrificially giving up our demands and preferences for theirs. If your “that’s-not-fair” radar just went off, ignore it. This isn’t about fairness. This is about modeling the love of Christ in our homes and friendships. This is obeying God’s Word and following His example of generous sacrificial love. No, it isn’t becoming a pushover or a martyr, but it is humble grace played out in everyday opportunities that make us and our families shine like lights in the dark world.

Try it!

- *Intentionally give your sibling the television remote.*
- *Ask your spouse to choose the restaurant for dinner.*
- *Park in the last row in the parking lot to save a good spot for someone else.*
- *Give your friend the middle brownie or cinnamon roll.*

What intentional act of unselfish love will you carry out today to demonstrate you are likeminded with others in your family or fellowship?